CLAIMS

1. Apparatus for use in a server to transmit data to a plurality of receiving terminals, the apparatus comprising:

transmitting logic to transmit the data and an acknowledgement value from the server to the plurality of receiving terminals; and

receiving logic to receive an acknowledgement signal from selected receiving terminals, wherein the selected receiving terminals comprise a portion of the plurality of receiving terminals where a locally generated random response value has a selected relationship to the acknowledgement value.

2. The apparatus of claim **1**, wherein the transmitting logic further comprises logic to transmit the acknowledgement value to the plurality of receiving terminals using an out of band transmission.

3. The apparatus of claim **1**, wherein the selected relationship occurs when the response value is greater than the acknowledgement value.

4. The apparatus of claim **1**, wherein the processing logic further comprises logic to use the acknowledgement signals transmitted from the selected receiving terminals to determine a probability of reception.

5. The apparatus of claim **4**, wherein the processing logic further comprises logic to re-transmit the data from the server if the probability of reception is below a selected service level.

6. The apparatus of claim **4**, wherein the processing logic further comprises logic to terminate the transmission of the data from the server if the probability of reception is above a selected service level.

7. The apparatus of claim **1**, wherein the processing logic further comprises logic to adjust the acknowledgement value to adjust the number of acknowledgement signals received at the server.

8. The apparatus of claim **1**, wherein the transmitting logic further comprises logic to transmit the data from the server to the plurality of receiving terminals using a multicast transmission.

9. A method for use in a server to transmit data to a plurality of receiving terminals, the method comprising:

transmitting the data and an acknowledgement value from the server to the plurality of receiving terminals; and

receiving an acknowledgement signal from selected receiving terminals, wherein the selected receiving terminals comprise a portion of the plurality of receiving terminals where a locally generated random response value has a selected relationship to the acknowledgement value.

10. The method of claim **9**, further comprising transmitting the acknowledgement value to the plurality of receiving terminals using an out of band transmission.

11. The method of claim **9**, wherein the selected relationship occurs when the response value is greater than the acknowledgement value.

12. The method of claim **9**, further comprising using the acknowledgement signals transmitted from the selected receiving terminals to determine a probability of reception.

13. The method of claim **12**, further comprising re-transmitting the data from the server if the probability of reception is below a selected service level.

14. The method of claim **12**, further comprising terminating the transmission of the data from the server if the probability of reception is above a selected service level.

15. The method of claim **9**, further comprising adjusting the acknowledgement value to adjust the number of acknowledgement signals received at the server.

16. The method of claim **9**, further comprising transmitting the data from the server to the plurality of receiving terminals using a multicast transmission.

17. Apparatus for use in a server to transmit data to a plurality of receiving terminals, the method comprising:

means for transmitting the data and an acknowledgement value from the server to the plurality of receiving terminals; and

means for receiving an acknowledgement signal from selected receiving terminals, wherein the selected receiving terminals comprise a portion of the plurality of receiving terminals where a locally generated random response value has a selected relationship to the acknowledgement value.

18. The apparatus of claim **17**, further comprising means for transmitting the acknowledgement value to the plurality of receiving terminals using an out of band transmission.

19. The apparatus of claim **17**, wherein the selected relationship occurs when the response value is greater than the acknowledgement value.

20. The apparatus of claim **17**, further comprising means for using the acknowledgement signals transmitted from the selected receiving terminals to determine a probability of reception.

21. The apparatus of claim **20**, further comprising means for re-transmitting the data from the server if the probability of reception is below a selected service level.

22. The apparatus of claim **20**, further comprising means for terminating the transmission of the data from the server if the probability of reception is above a selected service level.

23. The apparatus of claim **17**, further comprising means for adjusting the acknowledgement value to adjust the number of acknowledgement signals received at the server.

24. The apparatus of claim **17**, further comprising means for transmitting the data from the server to the plurality of receiving terminals using a multicast transmission.

25. A computer-readable media comprising instructions, which when executed by processing logic in a server, operate to transmit data to a plurality of receiving terminals, the computer-readable media comprising:

instructions for transmitting the data and an acknowledgement value from the server to the plurality of receiving terminals; and

instructions for receiving an acknowledgement signal from selected receiving terminals, wherein the selected receiving terminals comprise a portion of the plurality of receiving terminals where a locally generated random response value has a selected relationship to the acknowledgement value.

26. The computer-readable media of claim **25**, further comprising instructions for transmitting the acknowledgement value to the plurality of receiving terminals using an out of band transmission.

27. The computer-readable media of claim **25**, wherein the selected relationship occurs when the response value is greater than the acknowledgement value.

28. The computer-readable media of claim **25**, further comprising instructions for using the acknowledgement signals transmitted from the selected receiving terminals to determine a probability of reception.

29. The computer-readable media of claim **28**, further comprising instructions for re-transmitting the data from the server if the probability of reception is below a selected service level.

30. The computer-readable media of claim **28**, further comprising instructions for terminating the transmission of the data from the server if the probability of reception is above a selected service level.

31. The computer-readable media of claim **25**, further comprising instructions for adjusting the acknowledgement value to adjust the number of acknowledgement signals received at the server.

32. The computer-readable media of claim **25**, further comprising instructions for transmitting the data from the server to the plurality of receiving terminals using a multicast transmission.

33. Apparatus for use in a receiving terminal to receive data transmitted to a plurality of receiving terminals from a server, the apparatus comprising:

receiving logic to receive the data and an acknowledgement value transmitted from the server;

generating logic to generate a random response value;

processing logic to compare the response value to an acknowledgement value; and

transmitting logic to transmit an acknowledgment signal to the server from the receiving terminal if the response value has a selected relationship to the acknowledgement value.

34. The apparatus of claim **33**, wherein the receiving logic further comprises logic to receive the acknowledgement value using an out of band transmission.

35. The apparatus of claim **33**, wherein the selected relationship occurs when the response value is greater than the acknowledgement value.

36. The apparatus of claim **33**, wherein the receiving logic further comprises logic to receive the data in a multicast transmission from the server.

37. A method for use in a receiving terminal to receive data transmitted to a plurality of receiving terminals from a server, the method comprising:

receiving the data and an acknowledgement value transmitted from the server;

generating a random response value;

comparing the response value to the acknowledgement value; and

transmitting an acknowledgment signal to the server if the response value has a selected relationship to the acknowledgement value.

38. The method of claim **37**, further comprising receiving the acknowledgement value using an out of band transmission.

39. The method of claim **37**, wherein the selected relationship occurs when the response value is greater than the acknowledgement value.

40. The method of claim **37**, further comprising receiving the data in a multicast transmission from the server.

41. Apparatus for use in a receiving terminal to receive data transmitted to a plurality of receiving terminals from a server, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving the data and an acknowledgement value transmitted from the server;

means for generating a random response value;

means for comparing the response value to the acknowledgement value; and

means for transmitting an acknowledgment signal to the server if the response value has a selected relationship to the acknowledgement value.

42. The apparatus of claim **41**, further comprising means for receiving the acknowledgement value using an out of band transmission.

43. The apparatus of claim **41**, wherein the selected relationship occurs when the response value is greater than the acknowledgement value.

44. The apparatus of claim **41**, further comprising means for receiving the data in a multicast transmission from the server.

45. A computer-readable media comprising instructions, which when executed by processing logic in a receiving terminal, operate to receive data transmitted from a server to a plurality of receiving terminals, the computer-readable media comprising:

instructions for receiving the data and an acknowledgement value transmitted from the server;

instructions for generating a random response value;

instructions for comparing the response value to the acknowledgement value; and

instructions for transmitting an acknowledgment signal to the server if the response value has a selected relationship to the acknowledgement value.

46. The computer-readable media of claim **45**, further comprising instructions for receiving the acknowledgement value using an out of band transmission.

47. The computer-readable media of claim **45**, wherein the selected relationship occurs when the response value is greater than the acknowledgement value.

48. The computer-readable media of claim **45**, further comprising instructions for receiving the data in a multicast transmission from the server.

49. Apparatus for use in a receiving terminal to receive data transmitted to a plurality of receiving terminals from a server, the apparatus comprising:

receiving logic to receive the data and an acknowledgement value transmitted from the server, and wherein the receiving logic operates to detect a data reception error;

generating logic to generate a random response value;

processing logic to compare the response value to an acknowledgement value; and

transmitting logic to transmit a negative acknowledgment signal to the server from the receiving terminal if a data reception error is detected and

the response value has a selected relationship to the acknowledgement value.

50. The apparatus of claim **49**, wherein the receiving logic further comprises logic to receive the acknowledgement value using an out of band transmission.

51. The apparatus of claim **49**, wherein the selected relationship occurs when the response value is greater than the acknowledgement value.

52. The apparatus of claim **49**, wherein the receiving logic further comprises logic to receive the data in a multicast transmission from the server.

53. The apparatus of claim **49**, further comprising timing logic that is operable to measure a selected time interval.

54. The apparatus of claim **53**, wherein the transmitting logic transmits the negative acknowledgement signal at the end of the selected time interval.

55. The apparatus of claim **54**, wherein the selected time interval is a random time interval.